

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Hiroaki KIKUCHI, et al.

Serial No. To be Assigned

Group Art Unit: To be Assigned

Filed: Herewith

Examiner: G. Barron, Jr.

For: USER SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR CRYPTOGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION IN
NETWORK SYSTEMS

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 4 insert -- This application is a continuation of application serial number 08/805,090 filed February 24, 1997, now pending, which is a continuation of application serial number 08/301,397, filed February 24, 1997, now abandoned. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the pending claim and ADD new claims 21 in accordance with the following:

10. (Once Amended) Terminal equipment for cryptographic communication in a network system in which a first system and a second system are connected via an external network, said terminal equipment comprising:

an enciphering unit, provided in the first system, enciphering a communication text which includes an address of said enciphering unit and is to be output to a terminal equipment destination having a deciphering unit address on the external network, said enciphering unit comprising:

a first receiver receiving the communication text which is made in the first system and is to be transmitted via the external network;

a first key storage storing keys necessary for a cryptographic communication, the keys stored together and each solely connectedly associated with one of a user and a group of users;

a first key retrieving part retrieving a one of the keys associated with the user from said first key storage based on a destination of the communication text;

an enciphering part enciphering the communication text into an enciphered communication text using the key retrieved by said key retrieving part; and

a first transmitter transmitting the enciphered communication text from said enciphering part to the terminal equipment destination on the external network.

21. (New) A cryptographic communication method, comprising:

preparing a message comprising a destination address of a destination an enciphered portion, the enciphered portion comprising a deciphering unit address and an encipher identifier identifying that the and enciphered portion is enciphered;

transmitting the message to the destination; and

receiving the message at the destination, determining whether the address is correct and automatically deciphering the unencyphered portion with a deciphering unit having the deciphering unit address responsive to the identifier when the address is correct for the deciphering unit using a key associated with one of a user and a group of users.

REMARKS

Claim 10 has been amended and new claim 21 has been added.

This is a continuation application of a parent application in which the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in a Decision mailed August 10, 2001 upheld the rejection of claim 10. In the final action of the parent case the Examiner rejected claim 10 over Barnes with Adams and alleged admitted prior art portions of the disclosure being used to support rejections of other claims. Barnes associates keys with terminal devices. The Board on pages 3 and 4 of the Decision noted that claim 10 while reciting that keys are associated with users does not exclude association with terminal addresses. Claim 10 has been amended to exclude such an interpretation. The Board also noted that "associated with" does not demand the multiple requirements discussed in the Brief on pages 11 and 12 thereof. In particular the brief notes that associated means having a connectedness and an association in storage. Claim 10 has been amended to emphasize these features. Barnes and the other art (Adams and alleged admitted prior art portions of the disclosure) do not teach or suggest these features of the invention.

Claim 21 is directed to varying the scope of the claimed invention.

It is submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

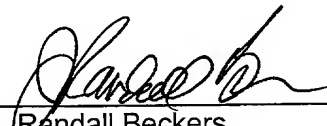
It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 1/2/2

By: 
J. Randall Beckers
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 4 insert -- This application is a continuation of application serial number 08/805,090 filed February 24, 1997, now pending, which is a continuation of application serial number 08/301,397, filed February 24, 1997, now abandoned. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the following claim:

10. (Once Amended) [A user support system] Terminal equipment for cryptographic communication in a network system in which a first system and a second system are connected via an external network, said [user support system] terminal equipment comprising:

an enciphering unit, provided in the first system, enciphering a communication text which includes an address of said enciphering unit and is to be output to a terminal equipment destination having a deciphering unit address on the external network, said enciphering unit comprising:

a first receiver receiving the communication text which is made in the first system and is to be transmitted via the external network;

a first key storage storing keys necessary for a cryptographic communication, the keys stored together and each solely connectedly associated with one of a user and a group of users;

a first key retrieving part retrieving a [key] one of the keys associated with the user from said first key storage based on a destination of the communication text;

an enciphering part enciphering the communication text into an enciphered communication text using the key retrieved by said key retrieving part; and

a first transmitter transmitting the enciphered communication text from said enciphering part to the terminal equipment destination on the external network.

Please ADD the following claim:

21. (New) A cryptographic communication method, comprising:

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preparing a message comprising a destination address of a destination an enciphered portion, the enciphered portion comprising a deciphering unit address and an encipher identifier identifying that the and enciphered portion is enciphered;

transmitting the message to the destination; and

receiving the message at the destination, determining whether the address is correct and automatically deciphering the unencyphered portion with a deciphering unit having the deciphering unit address responsive to the identifier when the address is correct for the deciphering unit using a key associated with one of a user and a group of users.

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